

## Greetings Rising Sophomores and Class of 2014

I trust you are well! You are nearing the completion of your freshman year in High School. Congratulations on a job well done! You are now poised to step into the A.P. Language & Composition course! We are excited about your sophomore effort this year and seek to set you off on a running start. In an effort to accomplish this goal, we have selected some intriguing novels for your summer reading. We hope that you will agree as you engage them.

Let's begin, shall we? Your summer reading novels for this 2011/2012 school year are as follows:

- *Cry, the Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton
- *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, by James Baldwin
- *Black Boy*, by Richard Wright

**(Note: You will need to have copies of these books with you when school begins.)**

As sophomores moving into the A.P. Language & Composition course, you are fully aware of what a strong quality summer reading product looks like. That is exactly what we expect to receive from you the first week in August. The following expectations below should be strictly adhered to. *As you read each novel:*

- Maintain a journal (typed and double-spaced or written in black ink) in which you reflect and provide meaningful commentary on the text.
- Each entry should include a heading, date and pages or chapters upon which you are reflecting, as well as an accurate word count at the end of each entry.
- Each entry should be no fewer than 250 words, but no more than 500 words in length.
- **Quotations should be highlighted!** Quotations may be included in your word count, but they should not dominate the entry. We want to hear your commentary and not an overabundance of quotations.
- Cite the exact location of each quotation according to MLA (Modern Language Association) format. Such an MLA citation consists of the author's last name and exact page where quote was found. **(Note: There are many on-line web sites that explain MLA. A Pocket Style Manual by Diana Hacker also explains MLA.)**
- **Do Not Write Plot Summaries!** Keep in mind that we are re-reading the novels along with you. We are well aware of what happens in each of them. We seek in-depth commentary as to what you as an individual have unearthed.
- We expect five to ten entries per book. Include the following aspects where appropriate in your reflective entries:
  - analysis of the use of **Diction**, **Tone**, **Irony**, **Figures of Speech**
  - character analysis (personality, motivation, changes, interaction with other characters)
  - most important scenes (with reasons for importance)
  - major conflicts (causes, effects, resolution)
  - major themes & motifs
  - Colorful, symbolic unusual imagery (effect on plot, theme, and the reader)

We are looking forward to reading your summer reflections. These journals should be a reflection of your commitment to quality as well as your continued maturity as a scholar. Do not submit last minute work that is thrown together as there will be no mercy in grading such an effort.

Furthermore, these journals should reveal the maturity of your writing style and include how you, the reader, are affected by various aspects of each book. **The last entry for each work should examine your overall reaction/feelings about the book (with specific support/reasons).**

Your journal will be **due on Friday of the first week of school**. It will be weighted as an essay grade, which is quite heavy. If you have any questions about the books or summer reading assignment, please feel free to contact **Mr. Reginald Isom** at [isomr@leonschools.net](mailto:isomr@leonschools.net) or **Mrs. Kelley Sindhu** at [sindhuk@leonschools.net](mailto:sindhuk@leonschools.net) from the time of receipt of this letter through the end of May 2011. After that date, please contact **Mr. Patrick Wright** at [wrightp@leonschools.net](mailto:wrightp@leonschools.net) or 488-1783.

We look forward to seeing you in August for the start of our 2011/2012 partnership!

Let's make it a great one!!!

**Reginald Isom, M.B.A., M. Ed.**  
**English I Pre-IB/AP Language Composition**  
**James S. Rickards High School**  
**Tallahassee FL 32301**  
[www.rickards.leon.k12.fl.us](http://www.rickards.leon.k12.fl.us)

*"Your Destination Should Be Evident In Your Preparation"*

***ALWAYS FORWARD!!!***